

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

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| To: | | NOTIFICATION CONCERNING INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE APPLICANT (PCT Rule 66.6) | |
| DE PENA, Alain IBM FRANCE Direction de la Propriété Intellectuelle F-06610 La Gaude FRANCE | | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> IBM FRANCE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPT 20 DEC. 2004 ACTION <i>Wpts OK</i> </div> | |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference FR920020033/CB | | Date of mailing (day/month/year) 20.12.2004 | |
| International application No. PCT/EP 03/07132 | | TRANSMITTAL FOR INFORMATION | |
| Applicant INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION et al. | | International filing date (day/month/year) 13.06.2003 | |

An informal communication took place on 06.12.2004, between the International Preliminary Examining Authority and the applicant / the agent.

A copy of the note on that communication (Form PCT/PEA/428) is herewith transmitted for your information.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



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**Vertrag über die internationale Zusammenarbeit auf dem Gebiet des Patentwesens
Patent Cooperation Treaty
Traité de coopération en matière de brevets**

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Application No.:

PCT/EP 03/07132

Note on an informal communication by telephone with the Applicant

A copy of this note is being sent to the Applicant for information

Participants

Applicant: International Business Machines Corporation

Representative: Barnier, C

Examiner(s): de Man, A

Summary of the communication

The representative was informed that, due to the passed deadline for the International Preliminary Examination Report, either a negative IPER could be issued directly, or a Written Opinion with a time limit of 1 month could be sent.

The representative inquired about the legal basis for presenting this option, and opted for the direct issue of a negative IPER.



06.12.2004

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Date

de Man, A

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Authorized officer of IPEA